

Dear Friends:

South Carolina has a new public education ambassador.

Jenna Hallman, a science teacher at **Calhoun Academy for the Arts** in **Anderson School District 5**, is the 2008-09 South Carolina Teacher of the Year. She and 82 other teachers – members of this year's Honor Roll and district teachers of the year – were honored at a corporate-sponsored banquet in Columbia last Friday night.

As State Teacher of the Year, Jenna will represent her 50,000 colleagues and participate in a yearlong residency at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (**CERRA**), working with the South Carolina Teacher Forum. Her residency will include numerous speaking engagements around the state before civic and professional groups interested in education. She also will conduct workshops for other classroom professionals, discuss public education issues with members of the General Assembly and State Board of Education, and work closely with the Teacher Cadet Program.

When Jenna was a college student, her goal was to become an attorney. Today she is a champion of young people and a strong advocate for public education. She believes that every child can experience success and uses a variety of strategies to help her students connect science to other subjects and real life.

Jenna has a strong relationship with her community and is always searching for ways to involve her students in service learning. Together, they have donated food, blankets and toys to the humane society, collected and delivered food to a local soup kitchen, made valentines for the elderly, gathered supplies and written letters to soldiers fighting overseas, and participated in a litter campaign. As a member of Leadership Anderson, she is working to help create a board that will hear proposals from non-profit agencies and then support and fund their ventures.

Jenna has taught for ten years and is National Board Certified. She is a member of Anderson University's Education Department Leadership Team and has frequently served as a workshop presenter. A graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University, she's enrolled in Clemson University's Master of Education program.

The members of this year's **Honor Roll** are accomplished teacher-leaders as well. They are Josie Stratton of Mayo High School for Math, Science and Technology in Darlington County; Renee Sanders of Johnsonville High School in Florence School District 5; Laura Jean Reed of Stone Academy of Communications Arts in Greenville; and Rona Neely of Bell Street Middle School in Laurens School District 56.

South Carolina is fortunate that they ALL are making a difference in the lives of our young people.

Sincerely,

Jim Rex

State Superintendent of Education

<http://calhoun.anderson5.net/>

<http://www.anderson5.net/>

<http://www.cerra.org/>

<http://www.ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=925>